



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - July 28, 2003**

- ***In the West***, heat and drought stress on dryland summer crops remains significant, especially across the ***northern half of the region***. The persistence of hot, dry conditions since late May has also strained drought-reduced irrigation reserves and hampered wildfire containment efforts. Meanwhile, showers associated with the monsoon (summer rainy season) continue to provide limited drought relief in the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, the passage of a cold front is maintaining favorable conditions in the ***eastern Dakotas*** and providing relief from recent hot, dry conditions on the ***central Plains***. Hot, dry weather persists, however, on the ***northern High Plains***, including ***Montana***, where spring-sown small grains have been significantly stressed in recent weeks.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, soil moisture and temperatures remain nearly ideal for summer crops, including those progressing through the reproductive stage of development. In the wake of a cold front's passage, scattered showers and thunderstorms linger across ***southern portions of the region***, including the ***Ohio Valley***. Today's ***Midwestern*** high temperatures are forecast to range from 75 to 85 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are confined to ***southern Texas***. Elsewhere, hot weather favors summer crop development and maturation, although soil moisture levels range from locally excessive in the ***southern Atlantic region*** to short in some areas ***west of the Delta***.

**Outlook:** A slow-moving cold front triggering locally heavy showers and thunderstorms from the ***central Plains eastward into the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic States*** will push southward, reaching the ***southern Plains, Delta, and Southeast*** by mid-week. Meanwhile, dry weather will prevail across the ***Midwest and Northeast***, although by mid-week showers and thunderstorms will return to the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. Hot, mostly dry conditions will persist in ***northern portions of the Rockies and Great Basin***, while monsoon showers will continue across the ***southern Rockies*** and the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 2-6 calls for above-normal temperatures across the ***upper Midwest and central and northern portions of the Rockies and High Plains***, while below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***Delta, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are forecast along the ***Atlantic and Gulf Coasts***, but below-normal precipitation is expected from the ***Great Basin eastward into the Midwest***.

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